

Art Unit: 3749

The attorney and examiner discussed the claim amendments. The applicant had amended claim 24 to include a fluid temperature and deleted reference to other limitations. The examiner stated he would consider the amendments. The examiner was provided with a copy of "Coal Properties, Sampling and Ash Characteristics". The examiner inquired about the date of this article and was told that it would be provided. The applicant stated arguments as to why the claim limitations involving at least one carbon compound a particle size reduction and reducing the particle size, ash fusion temperature characteristic is less than 2600°F and initial deformation temperature, softening temperature, hemispherical temperature, and fluid temperature less than 2600°F, the iron bearing material fluxes the ash slag to produce the ash slag, the melting point of the composite ash slag is less than 2600°F, the at least one ash fusion temperature characteristic is fluid temperature are contained in the specification as discussed in the response dated 4/28/08. Regarding the patentability of the claims, the applicant repeated the arguments found in the response dated 4/28/08. The examiner queried the applicant as to whether the applicant was imitating the chemistry of combusting a high sulfur coal with a low sulfur coal and iron additive. The examiner was told it would not be obvious to add the iron. The examiner was told that the chemistry of Hepworth used carbon to lower the melting temperature. The examiner stated that he would consider the applicant's arguments.

/Kenneth B Rinehart/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3749